

GANSLER SENDS FINAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

In response to subsection 849 (b) of Public Law (Pub. L.) 105-85, "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998," Dr. Jacques S. Gansler, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, provided to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives the last of three reports assessing the extent to which each military department is complying with the requirement set forth in subsection 1731(b) of title 10, United States Code.

Subsection 1731(b) requires the Secretary of Defense to ensure that the qualifications of officers selected for an Acquisition Corps (AC) be such that the AC officers may be expected to achieve promotion parity with those not in the Acquisition Corps. The intent is to ensure that the Services select high quality officers to perform acquisition duties.

Gansler's Jan. 28, 2000, report assesses the success of the Department of Defense in meeting that requirement. Specifically, it provides a discussion of the promotion rates of AC officers for the grades of lieutenant colonel/commander (O-5) through major general/rear admiral (O-8) in comparison to their nonacquisition counterparts for each military department for fiscal years (FY) 1999 and prior. Noting improvements and concerns, Gansler's report stated:

"I reported last year that the statutory promotion expectations for military acquisition professionals were not being realized equally well at all levels by all Services. The Services' initiatives have resulted in significant improvements in FY 1999 with the best overall promotion results for the acquisition corps since the selection criteria became effective in FY 1994. For FY 1999, the AC officers achieved broadly comparable promotion rates, supporting the Services' assessment that quality officers are being selected for the AC. My one concern is lower Army AC promotion rates to O-5 and O-6 due to an excess of candidates. I am confident the Army will correct this temporary shortfall. We will continue to monitor the promotion rates as one of our key measures for ensuring that the Services continue to select high-quality officers to perform acquisition duties."

Editor's Note: To read the entire report, go to <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ar/#sat1> on the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) Web site.